competitive bidding based on minimum reserve price and restricting the number of players initially are imposed.

(ii) No entry restrictions except the one-time entry fee and financial soundness and credit worthiness of the operators should be imposed. The quantum of entry fee could be increased appropriately if the one recommended by TRAI is considered inadequate to keep the non-serious players out.

(iii) Intra-circle long distance traffic has to be permitted to ensure freedom of choice of long distance operator to the subscriber. The artificial distinction between intra-circle and inter-circle long distance connectivity would become redundant in the face of emerging technological innovations. Un-restricted competition among the ISPs has already demonstrated the virtue of this approach to rapidly expand the customer base and reduce cost to the customer at the intra-circle level and the Internet telephony, underlining the need to have free competition at the Intra-circle level.

(c) The comments from the Ministry of Communications are yet to received.

Opening of Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres

603. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to open some Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the different facilities given by the proposed centres;

(c) the number of centres to be opened specially for the North-Eastern States; and

(d) the amount required for each project and present progress of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the Integrated Infrastructural Development

(IID) Scheme is to promote clusters of small scale and tiny units with a view to create employment opportunities and develop exports, to promote stronger linkages between agriculture and industry, to provide common service facilities and technological back up services in the selected centres and to create/upgrade infrastructural facilities like power, water, communication, etc. in the new/existing centres/ industrial areas. The infrastructural facilities may also include developed sites, power distribution network, drainage, road, banks, post office, raw material depot, marketing outlets and common facilities/amenities such as built up accommodation for administrative office, conference hall and first-aid centre, effluent treatment and disposal system for pollution control.

(c) The IID Centres are sanctioned on the basis of proposals received from the State Government/UT's. Two IID Centres, one at District Darrang of Assam and the other in District Chandel of Manipur have been sanctioned.

(d) The Central Government provides one time grant to the tune of 80% of the project cost of an IID Centre to a maximum of Rs. 400.00 lakhs in North Eastern States, whereas the amount of grant is 40% to a maximum of Rs. 200.00 lakhs in the case of States other than the North-East. Out of the approved project cost of Rs. 418.00 lakhs for IID Centre at Darrang, the central grant will be Rs. 334.40 lakhs and for IID Centre at Chandel, the amount of grant will be Rs. 400.00 lakhs in the total project cost of Rs. 575.00 lakhs. The developmental work on these IID Centres is yet to commence.

Central Investment in Punjab

604. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total investment of Central Government in different projects in Punjab;

(b) what is the total revenue received from Punjab per year by Income Tax, Excise Duty etc. approximately; and

(c) what is the status of Punjab keeping in comparison to other States keeping population into consideration?